**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (Previously Presented) A method for regenerating a NOx catalyst in a NOx purifying system having a direct reduction type NOx catalyst provided in an exhaust passage and directly decomposing NOx during a lean condition operation and being regenerated during a rich condition operation, comprising prohibiting a rich condition control when the temperature detected by a catalyst temperature detector is greater than a set temperature which is within a predetermined temperature range of between 400°C and 500°C.

2. (Previously Presented) A NOx purifying system direct reduction type NOx catalyst provided in an exhaust passage and directly decomposing NOx during a lean condition operation and being regenerated during a rich condition operation, which comprises a catalyst temperature detector, and a control device to prohibit a rich condition control when the temperature detected by the catalyst temperature detector is greater than a set temperature which is within a predetermined temperature range of between 400°C and 500°C.

3. (Previously Presented) A method for regenerating a direct reduction type NOx catalyst provided in an exhaust passage, comprising:

detecting the direct reduction type NOx catalyst temperature; and

regenerating the NOx while performing a rich condition operation only when the detected temperature is less than a set temperature which is between 400°C and 500°C.

4. (Previously Presented) A NOx purifying system having a direct reduction type NOx catalyst provided in an exhaust passage, comprising:

a catalyst temperature detector detecting a temperature of the direct reduction type NOx catalyst; and

a control device causing a rich condition control to be performed only when the temperature detected by the catalyst temperature detector is less than a set temperature which is between 400°C and 500°C.